Russia's Balkan Plan heart of the Russians. The polite evasiveness of Grey was finally properly understood, and thus it came that Made World War Loom In 1912, Papers Reveal to have in the Agriculta a Serbian port, which the Russian navy could

Collated from the Documents in the Possession of, and Translated Political and War Correspondent of the Associated Press During the Great War; Author of "The Iron Ration" "From Berlin to Bagdad," "The Craft Sinister," Etc.

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By COUNT B. VON SIEBERT,

Late Secretary of the Imperial Embassy of Russia in London; Secretary of the Imperial Embassy of Russia at Washington; Secretary of Count Witte, Head of the Russian Delegation to the Russo-Japanese Peace Negotiations at Portsmouth, N. H.

The following is the fourth installment of this amazing story of secret diplomacy, the third having appeared last Sunday in The make his position clear to Sazonoff's

The second phase of the Balkan war of 1912 shows Russia's foreign policy as reckless as ever it was; it shows that the French government, then in the hands of Poincare in the international department, was still bent upon getting a chance to revenge 1870-1, and it shows that the British had declared quite frankly that France government remained ever true to its time-honored policy wit: Go to war against Austria Hunof having other states pull the chestnut out of the fire.

The success of the Balkan allies in + valor of the Bulgarian troops. Sazoword did not go as far as in Belgrade, d his agents had discovered that for the occupation of Constantinonle The reports from Benckendorff, the showed that the British ress and public were in favor of having the Turk ousted from Europe, so long as there was assurance of putting the pro-British Bulgars on the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

their campaign against Turkey was the internationalization of the locality swift and complete, due mainly to the in question would meet with firm resistance on the part of the Russian government. Grey, British minister of foreign affairs, himself was informed in that sense. The British government then decided to fall back upon the expedient of having the Sultan-Caliph stay, at Constantinople, MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

nople was not to be Russia's base. of this island should be determined by all the great powers in concert, The British government was perfectly including Turkey. willing to keep Sazonoff in good hu- jected that surely I was right in

Sazonoff decided to support with might and main the claims of Serbia to a port on the Adriatic at the ex-pense of the autonomous Albania, of which there had been much talk in the capitals of Europe.

use as a base in the Mediterranean Great Britain, also, was averse to have a Russian naval base in the

Mediterranean, There are dozens of documents that speak of the intemperance of the erbian government in this crisis and the needless provocations that were engineered at Belgrade, many of them inder the aegis of M. Hartwig, the Sazonoff found it hard to get the

Russian minister to Serbia. French and British publics excited.

Time and again Sazonoff caused of opening hostilities against Austria-Hungary and Germany. The British indersecretary of state, Sir Arthur vicholson, encouraged Benekendorff ill he could, but Grey, while willing

POINCARE WAS WILLING

TO STRIKE AT GERMANY. would do what Russia would do, togary and against Germany. Finally Sazonoff, seeing himself defeated, attempted the promotion of

better relations with Turkey. Grey was to have a severe test presently. Greece had let it be understood that she wanted to retain, as her principal spoils, the island

The Russian minister at London to M. Sazonoff. Telegram dated 8-21

M. Suzum, 1912. No. 269. Grey has certain doubts Sazonoff discovered that Constanti- regarding Crete. He thinks the fate Here 1 inter-

Wilhelm Der Chopper's "Flop" Going, Going, Gone, In Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 3.—A bed which Wilhelm Der Woodchopper often used, the couch no doubt of imperial dreams about beaten France and abject England and

humbled United States, was sold at public auction in Chicago. With it went a marble washitand wherein the imperial head had been soaked, a massive wardrobe once containing all the Kaiser's medaled uniforms, chairs used by Hoched and Hoching and a miscellaneous assortment of carved woodwork under which the All Highest frequently

Before November 11, 1918, three flossy relics were the contents of the royal bedroom in the castle of the Grand Duke of Hesse, "Me und Gott" often sojourned there in those days. When the tumble came and the bedroom's imperial occupant hotfooted it into Holland the grand duke began looking for the nearest exit. He shipped the stuff to Chicago, where it is being disposed of at public auction.

not cast her eyes upon those islands In reply Grey said to me:
"'By no means,"" he said.

Face to face for the first time its annex in the Balkans at work militarily, Sir Edward Grey made end of a conversation with him Benckendorff, in Telegram No. 270, Sazonoff as follows:

"The entire conversation with Grey proves that he has completely veered round in his opinions, in the interests of the maintenance of entente, and that he is resolved, for the sake of the entente, to grant far greater concessions at the cost of Turkey than he was prepared to

ENTENTE WINS POINT WITH ENGLISHMAN.

Nos. 269 and 270, Count Benckendorff repeated in a letter to M. Sazonoff dated October 9-22, 1912.

"Yesterday I sent you several elegrams of special importance, paricularly one in which Grey accepts ur proposal with reference to an mmediate exchange of views.

"First Grey spoke of the reproach eveled against him as to his being too considerate of the Caliph. Then at Constantinople, reforms, and terriorial integrity.

"As regards the nominal Turkish sovereignty, his words mean that he would concede a minimum: 'So many already been found that it ought to be easy to come to an understandng.'" Grey said. "This evolution of Grey's reveals

courage. tan remains at Constantinople. Grey will agree to everything calculated to

Grey could not afford to have the Sultan driven from Constantinople, though such was the plan of the Bal-

The whole of Russia's scheme was not yet understood in London and Paris. On November, 18-31, 1912, in No. 675, Sazonoff had occasion to instruct his ambassador at London. RUSSIA CONCEALED

Sazonoff to London Envoy: "Lat-terly the French minister for foreign affairs has repeatedly emphasized during his conversations with M. Is-(Russian ambassador Paris) that it appeared to him highdesirable that more explicit information concerning the substance of the Serbs-Bulgarian alliance and Russia's attitude in the question be given to Grey. •• You may tell him (Grey) the Russian government has been aware of the fact that Gueshoff had at the time given information to the London cabinet as to this subject through the medium of the British minister at Sofia; IT WAS, THERE-FORE, NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO SPEAK TO GREY EXPLICITLY ABOUT THIS TREATY, THE LESS SO AS THIS TREATY WAS TO BE KEPT STRICTLY SECRET BY THE TWO INTERESTED GOVERN-MENTS."

Sazonoff knew what he wanted and he was not at all shy in letting Sir Edward Grey know his wishes. The peace treaty of Bucharest shows that he had his way to the very end, for with that instrument he got even with Bulgaria for daring to want all she had been promised in return for hedding her blood in behalf of Tur

He accepted the following proposals rom France to decide the fate of Constantinople, and wired to the Rus ian ambassador at London:

"1. The powers will take a collec-tive step with the belligerent states for a suspension of hostilities. The sovereignty of the Sultan at Constantinople and in the adjoining territory will be maintained without

"3. In the remaining parts of Eu-ropean Turkey the national, political and administrative institutions wil be changed in accordance with the requirements of each district; this to be done in such a manner that the interests of all interested states will be balanced.

"4. For this purpose of conjointly settling the various questions involved, the powers will meet at a constates and Rumania shall also be in

Sazonoff's scheme for shearing Bul garia and gradually working to a po sition of mastery at Constantinople fitted in neither with that of the entente nor the Russian, French, and British intentions. To remain a powere, the powers had to maintain the status quo along the Straits, which was the sole reason why the total elimination of the Caliph in Europe

was not favored.

Great Britain, besides having prime interests in keeping the Bosphorus and Dardanelles closed to the Russians, whenever that should become necessary, had to consider also the feelings of the Mohammedan world her Islamic colonies.

France did not want to have Russia boss the Mediterranean, and Russia felt that just then the moment was not come to occupy Con-stantinople and the Straits herself, simply because Great Britain and France would not consent to that. GREY ACTED SPOKESMAN

FOR RUSSIAN PLANS. Benckendorff to M. Sazonoff. Telegram dated October 20, Novem-

ber 2, 1912. No. 205. "Your telegrams 2403 and 2405 re "I have spoken to Grey. He says is impossible to ask the Bulgarians

gorically in favor of Bulgaria that he could not put forward such a demand. He thinks he may assume that your telegram was dispatched before the news of the latest victory of the Bulgarians, which seems to have been a declaye one has arrived.

"This morning Grey showed me an authorized Bulgarian statment in the "imes. It reads:
"If the Bulgarian troops enter Constantinople, they will do so for the purpose of dictating the peace there and will then immediately

ecisive one, has arrived.

an interview with the Bulgarian min-ister here. After this interview flad WARDED OFF BREAK. taken place, Grey told me the follow-ing: He had first asked the minister whence this statement emanated. im and expressed his personal opin-

sympathy of the English for the Bulgarian cause; he need not remind he could only add that the stand-point of Russia with regard to Constantinople had been fixed ever since

the beginning of the crisis.
"It was, therefore, of the utmost importance that Bulgaria should, as soon as possible, remove the apprehensions of the Russian government with regard to her intentions concerning Constantinople, for otherwise Bulgaria, threatened as she already was, with a pressure from Rumania and perhaps also from Austria, might lose the sympathies of Russia and find herself in an extremely difficult

Grey's solicitious expression in th interests of Russia in the straits was scant. He could have informed Sazonoff that the British Government had no objection to the Russian Black Sea fleet appearing be fore the Turkish capital with Great Britain's permission to make Russia master of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. That would have been a short cut, and none but France would have objected, so far as maritime interests were involved. RUSSIA OPPOSES

LONG OCCUPATION. "We wish to oppose the temporary

tinople and withdraws to Asia Minor "He says that public opinion in tinople and withdraws to Asia Mi England would express itself so cate- it need fear no further losses:

> "On the other hand, a prolonged occupation of Constantinople by the Allies might force us likewise to send our fleet, which would remain there precisely as long as the Allies. We think, therefore, that the Powers should now decide whether they want to accede to Turkey's request and

"Grey said he would take this statement as a point of departure for

It was the extreme moderation o checkerboard which averted a calam-"Grey in reply said that he spoke as a friend of Bulgaria and called ity in those days. Germany had no to witness the demonstrations of direct interests involved, and in her endeavor to please the desperate Sazonoff sided with him against Bulgaria in the negotiations at Bucharest by means of which Sazonoff penalized the Bulgars for all the anxious

moments they had given him. Austria-Hungary had given up her claims upon Novi-Bazar, and in denying the Serbs a port on the Adriatic had done Great Britain a kind service of the first magnitude, because the obliged in the end to tell Sazonoff that Serbia was not to get such a port, except Serbia promised not to allow Russia to make use of the port as a Rus-

sian naval base in the Mediterranean. That would have been the end of the Entente, naturally, and from being the isolator of the Central Pow-Great Britain would have fallen to the position of the isolated-pro ided always that Grey would not

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have assured Russia in the eleventh duke Francis Ferdinand, of which hour that England would join her and plot Serbian government officials, in TREATY OF BUCHAREST

The activity of Mr. Hartwig in Bel-grade and Russian support of the ingrade and Russian support of the inquite openly the methods of the amas-famous Narodna Odbrana political so- sin in the slaying of thousands of ciety reopened the question on June irrnocent civilians, as the next chapter 28, 1914, by the assassination of Arch- will show.

plot Serbian government officials, including the Crown Prince Alexander. crime thet Serbian government became hapter of diplomatic intrigue in the time M. Hartwig had been assassinat-Meanwhile Sazanoff tried his luck



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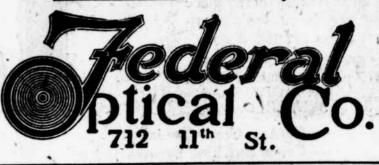
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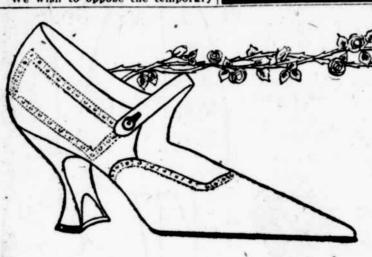
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